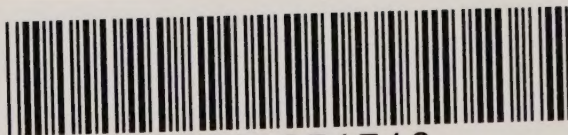


**THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF
VOLUNTARY
HOSPITAL
SUPERINTENDENTS**

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P
255

The title "Superintendent" is used to define the chief executive officer of a voluntary hospital, e.g., House Governor, Secretary, etc.

[1946]



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FOREWORD

Following the inauguration of this new National Association, the Executive Committee has met twice and, having regard to the impending fundamental changes in the country's health services which are likely to affect the chief executive officers in voluntary hospitals during the course of the next two or three years, has devoted considerable attention to the possible lines of development open to the Association.

As a result, this Statement is now issued with the three-fold purpose :—

- (1) To remind all whole-time salaried chief executive officers of voluntary hospitals throughout the country of the inauguration of this National Association, and to urge all who have not already applied for membership to do so without delay.
- (2) To make known certain conclusions of the Executive Committee concerning the policy and future development of the Association.
- (3) To draw attention to the urgent need for all members to take an active part in promoting the success of Area organisation, in their own individual interests and in order to lay the foundations of mutual aid.

INAUGURATION AND PROGRESS

The Association was founded at a National Conference of Voluntary Hospital Superintendents held in Birmingham on the 2nd March, 1946. The Constitution and Rules were adopted by the Conference; a President and Officers were appointed for the time being; and an Executive Committee was formed, comprising the Temporary Officers of the Association and three members ("Area Representatives") from each of the six "Areas" delineated by the Constitution. The Area Representatives were appointed by the Conference only until such time as Area Committees are formed in each case, and the temporary Representatives confirmed or replaced at elections in the respective Areas. All appointments of Officers and Area Representatives to remain effective only until the First Annual General Meeting to be held in 1947.

The first announcement of the inauguration of the Association resulted in the enrolment of nearly 200 Members (*i.e.* subscriptions paid). Although this is a modest beginning, it is known that a large number of others are actively interesting themselves in the Association, but as their subscriptions are not yet to hand they have not been taken into the reckoning. It is confidently anticipated that before the end of the year the membership will be increased to at least four times its present size. As long as the Association is confined to administrators of voluntary hospitals (which it is to be for the time being), the total membership therefore must be limited. The strength of the Association, however, will lie not so much in the number of its members but upon the proportion of all voluntary hospital superintendents which that number represents. If something near one hundred per cent. membership is obtained, the Association would be a force that could not be ignored, and its influence would be very considerable.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The present composition of the Executive Committee is as follows:

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS—

- President :* H. J. DAFFORNE (Ancoats Hospital, Manchester).
Vice-Presidents : To be elected after consultations with all Area Committees.
Honorary Treasurer : JOHN WILLIAMS (Southend-on-Sea General Hospital).
Honorary Secretary : H. B. SHELSWELL (Salford Royal Hospital)
Honorary Assistant Secretary : JOSEPH GRIFFITH (Bolton Royal Infirmary).

AREA REPRESENTATIVES—

- LONDON :** S. W. BARNES (King's College Hospital).
F. CHAMBERS (Metropolitan Hospital).
P. H. CONSTABLE (St. George's Hospital).
SCOTLAND : J. BROWNEE (Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary).
A. A. MACIVER (Glasgow Royal Infirmary).
One vacancy to be filled.
NORTH : F. J. CABLE (Manchester Royal Infirmary).
S. CLAYTON FRYERS (General Infirmary at Leeds).
H. TRUSSON (Bradford Royal Infirmary).
MIDLANDS : THORNBURROW GIBSON (N. Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent).
G. HURFORD (Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham).
H. T. PLOWMAN (Leicester Royal Infirmary).
SOUTH-WEST : C. J. ADAMS (Gloucester Royal Infirmary and Eye Institution).
F. DAGNALL (Cardiff Royal Infirmary).
P. HANKS (Winford Orthopædic Hospital, near Bristol).
(N.B.—The Executive has made a recommendation that this Area should consider a possible division into two separate Areas—i.e. West and South-West).
SOUTH-EAST : F. G. DAWES (Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury).
G. A. HUGHES (Royal Portsmouth Hospital)
E. A. WAGSTAFF (Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells).

AREA ORGANISATION

Several Area Committees have already been established, the most active at the present date being the North of England (based on the original Northern Association of Hospital Superintendents, founded in 1908), and the South-West. The latter has appointed its Officers and commenced activities with a body of 35 members. The South-East membership numbers 37 but the appointment of Officers and Committee is not yet completed.

The Executive Committee strongly recommends early Meetings of Area Committees in order to discuss matters of urgent and vital importance. Visits to new Area bodies by Officers of the National Association or appointed representatives from other established Areas will be made as soon as Members in the Areas concerned can convene Meetings.

POLICY OUTLINE

The objects of the Association are as set out in the Constitution, a draft copy of which was circulated in February, 1946, to the chief executive officers of all voluntary hospitals in Great Britain.

The Executive Committee has, however, considered suggestions from a number of sources that the "OBJECTS" should be further extended to safeguard the interests of those who are at present holding voluntary hospital chief executive posts, especially during the vital period of the next two or three years. Careful examination has been made of the arguments advanced both for and against such a course, and it has been tentatively agreed that as a short-term policy, in the first instance, such extension to the OBJECTS may be

recommended to the Association in full conference. In reaching this decision, the Executive has not been unaware of the fact that a wider field of hospital administration may open up as a result of the operation of the National Health Service, when "voluntary" and "local authority" hospitals, as such, will cease to exist. It is, firmly believed that the administrators of the voluntary hospitals have achieved certain high standards and hold ideals which at the moment may be peculiar to themselves but which are undoubtedly worth conserving for the betterment of the new National Health Service, and which they can contribute to that Service. Furthermore, it would be foolish to ignore the possibility of loss of material advantages now enjoyed by voluntary hospital administrators and the preservation of which might depend almost entirely upon their ability to take action as a united body before being merged into the new scheme of things.

It is argued that this group of hospital administrators should therefore seek without delay to combine more closely than hitherto and to set out to define their distinctive characteristics; especially with a view to emphasizing their qualities to the Minister of Health at this critical time when the machinery for the new National Health Service is being set up.

In this connection it should be noted that the Association of Medical Superintendents and the Association of Matrons have already had direct talks with the Minister of Health and no doubt other bodies such as N.A.L.G.O. and N.A.L.G.E. have had similar audiences. Of particular interest is the fact that the new Hospital Contributory Schemes Administrators Association has been recognised by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Social Insurance, and, further, has just obtained certain concessions by negotiation.

INSTITUTE OF HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS

At this point the relationship between the National Association of Voluntary Hospital Superintendents and the Institute of Hospital Administrators should be noted. The Executive Committee wish to emphasize the decisions reached at the National Conference in Birmingham (March, 1946) where it was unanimously agreed that this Association should not in any way conflict with the interests of the I.H.A. It is certain that the majority, if not all the Members of the Association are, and will continue to be, Members of the I.H.A. The relationship of the two bodies is similar to that which has existed for many years between the Northern Association of Hospital Superintendents and the I.H.A. (another example is that of the Matrons' Association and the Royal College of Nursing. It is at once obvious that certain functions of the I.H.A. (notably the provision of educational facilities) would never become a part of the specific aims of the N.A.V.H.S. On the other hand it cannot be denied that the I.H.A. is not in a position adequately to meet the needs of that section of hospital administrators which comprises chief executive officers alone. It is quite clear that the National Association of Voluntary Hospital Superintendents and the I.H.A. are complementary to each other and that during the changes which are now taking place, or are imminent in the national situation, the former could readily act in the interests of the chief executives whereas by its constitution the I.H.A. is totally unable to do so.

The fact that the National Association would continue at all times to render loyal support to the I.H.A. needs no reiteration.

IMMEDIATE PROGRAMME

The Executive Committee desires to see the immediate formation of all Area Committees, and to discuss with them certain matters which it may be desirable to bring before the Minister of Health at an early date, the nature of which is indicated above. To ensure the complete success of the projected plans, it is essential that all eligible hospital officers who have not yet taken up membership of the National Association should do so without delay. The views and desires of the majority of the present voluntary hospital administrators could then be ascertained (as has never before been possible) and made vocal with such authority as must compel attention.

Your Area Representatives will be pleased to furnish any further information you may require.

SUBSCRIPTION

The Subscription is one guinea payable on 1st April each year. Application for membership together with subscription should be forwarded to the Honorary Treasurer :—

John Williams, F.H.A.,
Southend-on-Sea General Hospital,
Southend,
Essex.

